

Alexion is one of New Haven and Connecticut's greatest biotech success stories. In less than a decade, the company grew far beyond the incubator space of Science Park, first moving to new facilities in Cheshire, opening a bio-manufacturing facility in Rhode Island and establishing operations in Europe. I am proud to say that just last year we celebrated the return of Alexion's global headquarters to New Haven where they continue their good work in a new state-of-the-art facility that is anchor to an entire downtown revitalization effort.

Alexion is special in many ways, but what makes them most unique is their commitment to patients who are all too often invisible to others. Alexion is dedicated to the development of drugs and therapies for some of the most rare diseases in the world, extending hope to patients and families who have nowhere else to turn.

Alexion first found success with the development of Soliris, the world's first approved terminal complement inhibitor. Today, Soliris is approved in nearly 50 countries for the treatment of patients with paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH) and in more than 40 countries for the treatment of patients with atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome (aHUS), two life-threatening, ultra-rare disorders caused by uncontrolled complement activation. In more recent years, Alexion's metabolic franchise has grown to include two highly innovative enzyme replacement therapies for patients with life-threatening and ultra-rare disorders: Strensiq is approved for patients with hypophosphatasia (HPP) and Kanuma is approved for patients with lysosomal acid lipase deficiency.

Patients with these life-threatening diseases have no effective treatment options, and they and their families suffer with little hope. Alexion's goal has and continues to be to deliver medical breakthroughs where none currently exist. They are driven because they know people's lives depend on their work.

Today, Alexion employs nearly 3,000 people around the world, serving patients in 50 countries. From that small incubator space in Science Park, Alexion has emerged as one of the world's leading rare disease companies, advancing the most robust rare disease pipeline in the biotech industry. I was proud to stand with Dr. Bell as Alexion opened its doors and I am proud to stand today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Alexion Pharmaceuticals as they celebrate this remarkable milestone. Happy 25th Anniversary and best wishes for continued success.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN JOHN  
"GIDDY UP" BUNCH

**HON. FRANCIS ROONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2017*

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain John "Giddy Up" Bunch, a Southwest Floridian and a Marine Corps veteran who served in Vietnam. As the owner of GiddyUp Fishing Charters in St. James City, Florida, Captain Bunch combined his love for fishing with his love for our country when he invited a group of servicemen fishing out of gratitude for their

service. This inspired him to dedicate his time to giving back to our veterans, which he did by founding Operation Open Arms.

The organization's mission is to recruit people and businesses that are willing to donate their services and support to troops on leave, or those returning home, to give them a much-needed respite from their service. Since 2005, with over 300 volunteers supporting the program, Operation Open Arms has provided joy to over 3,000 servicemen and women and their families by providing services including vacations, weddings, fishing trips, counseling programs and funeral funds, totaling over \$13 million in benefits.

Captain Bunch was awarded the status of Honorary Life Member of American Legion Post 135 in Naples, Florida, and received the Outstanding Civilian Service Award at the Chief of Staff of the Army Salute last September, further exemplifying his dedication to making Operation Open Arms a success. His generosity and patriotism are an inspiration to us all.

TRIBUTE TO BETH SHELTON

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Beth Shelton for being named a 2017 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2017 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 680 past business leaders and growing.

Beth is the CEO of Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa, where she provides leadership and strategic direction for all staff and volunteers in portions of Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota. Her extensive experience has helped ensure the Girl Scouts remains a strong organization, and her work in innovation and fundraising has earned her a reputation of hard work and respect. Outside of her work with the Girl Scouts, Beth is a Rotary member, is involved in various philanthropic endeavors, and coaches youth basketball and softball. She lives in Des Moines with her husband Mark, two daughters, Grace and Millie, and a black lab, Samson.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Beth in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize her today for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Beth on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2017 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2017*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for roll call votes 100, 101 and 102 on Monday, February 27, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea roll call votes 100 and 102, and Nay on roll call vote 101.

HONORING THE GREATER NEW  
HAVEN NAACP ON THEIR 100TH  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2017*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Greater New Haven NAACP as they mark their centennial anniversary, a remarkable milestone for this tremendous organization.

Over the course of its 100-year history, the Greater New Haven NAACP has been an invaluable resource for our community. Serving fourteen towns, they are constantly working to bring awareness to a variety of issues. From racial disparities in employment, housing, transportation, health, law enforcement and education, their fight for justice has been tireless.

They have strived to continually educate, impact and engage our community by sponsoring events like an annual health expo, celebrating the contributions of community members at their annual Freedom Fund dinner and organizing voter registration and turn-out programs. Their efforts have gone a long way toward making sure that all of our community members enjoy equal opportunity.

Though inequality and injustice continue to challenge our society, it is organizations like the Greater New Haven NAACP who help us all to meet overcome those challenges. It is through the commitment of their leadership and their members that they are ensuring a promising future for our families, our children, and our communities.

I would be remiss if I did not extend a special note of thanks and appreciation to the leadership of the Greater New Haven NAACP for their outstanding vision. It has been a privilege to work with them over my tenure in Congress.

As the voice of our African-American community, the Greater New Haven NAACP has improved countless lives. Today, as we mark their 100th Anniversary, we also renew our commitment to those ideals upon which the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded, the causes of social justice and equality, the importance of community and public service, and the hope for a better tomorrow. I am honored to stand today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Greater New Haven NAACP on their centennial anniversary. As we say in Italian, Cent'Anni to another 100 years.

## TRIBUTE TO KELLY SPARKS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kelly Sparks for being named a 2017 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2017 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 680 past business leaders and growing.

After six years of experience in event planning, Kelly launched Socialize Event Planning and Management in 2010. She loves being behind the scenes and working to ensure that every detail falls into place. Kelly is also an active volunteer for the Des Moines Metro Opera and has served on the boards of multiple young professional and cultural organizations in Des Moines. She and her husband, Kurt, live in West Des Moines with their son, Winston, and daughter, Simone.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Kelly in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize her today for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Kelly on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2017 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN RED  
CROSS MONTH 2017**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2017*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize American Red Cross Month. In Missouri's Eighth Congressional District we have a long history of helping our neighbors in need. American Red Cross Month is a special time to recognize and thank our heroes, those Red Cross volunteers and donors who give of their time and resources to help community members.

These heroes help families find shelter after a home fire. They give blood to help trauma victims and cancer patients. They deliver comfort items to military members in the hospital. They use their lifesaving skills to save someone from a heart attack, drowning or choking. They enable children around the globe to be vaccinated against measles and rubella.

The American Red Cross depends on local heroes to deliver help and hope during a disaster. We applaud our heroes here in Missouri's Eighth Congressional District who give of themselves to assist their neighbors when they need a helping hand.

Across the country and around the world, the American Red Cross responds to disasters big and small. In fact, every eight minutes the organization responds to a community disaster by providing shelter, food, emotional support and other necessities to those affected. It collects nearly 40 percent of the nation's blood supply; provides 24-hour support to military members, veterans and their families; teaches millions lifesaving skills, such as lifeguarding and CPR; and through its Restoring Family Links program, connects family members separated by crisis, conflict or migration.

We dedicate the month of March to all those who support the American Red Cross mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies. Our community depends on the American Red Cross, which relies on donations of time, money and blood to fulfill its humanitarian mission.

As we celebrate March 2017 as American Red Cross Month, it is my pleasure to recognize the organization before the House of Representatives and thank them for their commitment to communities all across this great nation.

HONORING NATASSJA KUZNETSOVA  
OF BASKING RIDGE, NEW  
JERSEY**HON. LEONARD LANCE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2017*

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor a student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community.

Natassja Kuznetsova, of Basking Ridge, has just been named one of the top honorees in New Jersey by the 2017 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state.

Ms. Kuznetsova is being recognized for organizing a 5k run that has raised more than \$12,000 for lung cancer research since 2014. Nastassja started the Legwork for Lungs 5k run to help support a family friend who had been diagnosed with lung cancer. In addition to her philanthropy initiative, Nastassja also started the Legwork for Lungs club at her high school, created an exhibit at the Liberty Science Center and launched a social media campaign to raise awareness of the disease.

It's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Nastassja are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention, The Prudential Spirit of

Community Awards, was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 22 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has honored more than 115,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

Ms. Kuznetsova should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I heartily applaud Ms. Kuznetsova for her initiative in joining the fight against cancer. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can and do play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

## TRIBUTE TO ALYSSA YOUNG

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alyssa Young for being named a 2017 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2017 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 680 past business leaders and growing.

Alyssa is the Assistant Director of Internal & Strategic Communications at Drake University, where she received her Masters in Communication Leadership. Outside of work she is involved in Lead Like a Lady, Volunteers of Greater Des Moines Habitat Young Professionals and the national Habitat Young Professionals Advisory Council. Alyssa was also recently recognized as a finalist for the 2016 YPC Amy Jennings YP Impact Award.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Alyssa in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize her today for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Alyssa on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2017 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.